

June 2022



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES  
MINUTES

Jameson Annex  
1600 N Drive  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Parole Board meetings were held on June 13,14,15 and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in various locations in the State of South Dakota. A Full Board meeting was held on Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, commencing at 1:09PM with the following present.

Present:

Myron Rau, Board Chair  
Gordy Swanson, Vice Chair  
Ken Albers, Member  
Gregg Gass, Member  
Kurt Hall, Member  
Peter Lieberman, Member (MS Teams)  
Kirsten Aasen, Member  
Charles Schroyer, Member  
Val McGovern- Executive Director of Board of Pardons and Paroles  
Brad Lewandowski, Director of Parole  
Traci Fredrikson- Operations Supervisor  
Stacy Cole, Corrections Specialist  
Karena Cassidy, Senior Secretary  
Liz Effling, Corrections Specialist  
Loranda Kenyon, Attorney

Quorum Present? Yes

Absent: N/A

SPECIAL GUESTS: Terry Cummings (MS Teams), Brenna Carlson-SOMP, Jarod Hettich-Case Manager, Paige Storm-Case Manager, Brittany Shelburg-Case Manager, Deb Eilers- Case Manager, Riley DeGroot-Case Manager

AGENDA ITEMS:

APPEARED/REVIEWED BEFORE THE FULL BOARD (EIGHT MEMBERS) IN SIOUX FALLS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022:



The following offender appeared before the full board for a Parole hearing. Board Member Schroyer made a motion to grant parole to new number. Board Member Hall seconded the motion. All board members voting aye, the motion carried.

*Richards, Anthony*

The following offender appeared before the full board for a Parole hearing. Board Member Schroyer made a motion to grant parole. Board Member Aasen seconded the motion. All board members voting aye, the motion carried.

*Dickinson, Billy*

The following offender appeared before the full board for a Parole hearing. Board Member Gass made a motion to grant parole with the conditions that Mr. Johnson release to a halfway house and continue SOMP treatment in the interim and while on parole. Board Chair Albers seconded the motion. Vice Chair Swanson and Board Chair Rau voted nay, all other board members voting aye, the motion carried.

*Johnson, Joseph*

June 2022



STATE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES  
MINUTES

Jameson Annex  
1600 N Drive  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Parole Board meetings were held on June 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th, 2022 in various locations in the State of South Dakota. A Full Board meeting was held on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, commencing at 8:16 AM with the following present.

Myron Rau, Board Chair  
Gordy Swanson, Vice Chair  
Ken Albers, Member  
Gregg Gass, Member  
Kurt Hall, Member  
Peter Lieberman, Member (MS Teams)  
Kirsten Aasen, Member  
Charles Schroyer, Member  
Val McGovern, Executive Director of Board of Pardons and Paroles  
Brad Lewandowski, Director of Parole  
Kayla Stucky, Assistant Director of Field Operations  
Traci Fredrikson, Operations Supervisor  
Stacy Cole, Corrections Specialist  
Karena Cassidy, Senior Secretary  
Liz Effling, Corrections Specialist  
April Maeschen, Program Assistant I  
Georgia Will, Parole Admin Intern (MS Teams)  
Loranda Kenyon, Attorney

Quorum Present? Yes

COUNSEL PRESENT:

N/A

SPECIAL GUESTS: Terry Cummings-Senior Secretary, Jarod Hettich-Case Manager, Riley DeGroot-Case Manager, Jordan Wilcox-Case Manager, Paige Storm-Case Manager, Hailey Pieper-UM Staff Intern, Renae Kueter-Case Manger

HEARING PANELS: Panels went as planned with no changes.



MINUTES: Board Member Hall made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2022 meeting of the Board. Board Member Albers seconded the motion. All members voting aye; the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEMS:

APPEARED/REVIEWED BEFORE THE FULL BOARD (EIGHT MEMBERS, ONE AUXILIARY) IN SIOUX FALLS THURSDAY, May 12th, 2022:

N/A

BOARD REPORT: Director McGovern was available and updated the board on the following:

Governor Noem has appointed Jan Steele to the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Jan is currently the Victim/Witness Specialist for the Codington County States' Attorney's Office. Mrs. Steele replaces Rev. Patricia White Horse Carda, who retired from the Board in January. Steele's appointment expires on January 20, 2024. • The office received 8 pardon applications in May and hearings are being scheduled 3 months out. The governor took no clemency actions in May. There are currently 41 pardons and one commutation pending a final action from the Governor. The commutation paper review process was enhanced to include reasons for denial, board staff interviews prior to the paper review, and use of the SDMF tool during the review.

The Parole Board Office went through a restructuring in April. Corrections Specialist Val McGovern has been appointed Executive Director of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and is responsible for the following duties: Warrant issue and clear emails and NCIC entry, board minutes, board policies, board report (metrics, updates), Governor's warrants, board orders and rescindments, technology management. Director McGovern works for the board office; the remaining board staff are now considered parole administration and will continue with the functions of dispositional meetings, preparing for and scheduling discretionary, non-compliance, early discharge, pardon, commutation, parole violation, and appeal of parole date hearings, amongst other functions.

Paige Wilber-Bock has fulfilled her commitment to be an auxiliary board member as of June 13th. An extra day of parole board hearings was scheduled and conducted on May 27th and Board Chair Rau and Board Member Albers reviewed and approved 104 parole violation waivers. Board Chair Rau, Board Member Kurt Hall and Director McGovern attended the Annual Parole Training on June 1st. Director McGovern presented board stats to the agents. Board Member Hall and Chair Rau had great conversation with the agents regarding policies, violation reports, early discharge applications among other things that impact our practices.

DIRECTOR OF FIELD SERVICES REPORT: Kayla Stucky was available and updated the board on the following personnel updates:



#### Southeast Region Staff Update:

Agents utilized in the SE have a caseload average of 61.45. Agents utilized in the SE have a workload average of 89.64%. Current staffing: 2 agents in training (SF); 2 secretaries in training (SF); 1 agent on light duty. Austin Falor began 5/9/22 and Erin Boysen began 5/23/22. Breanna Kerr (former parole admin intern) started as the part time secretary in the downtown office on 5/9/22. Parole agent specialists continue conducting the Moving On class.

#### Northeast Region Staff Update:

Agents utilized in the NE Region have an average caseload of 59.76. Agents utilized in the NE have an average workload of 87.08%. Current staffing: 3 agents in training (Aberdeen, Watertown, Mitchell). Korey Ware started his agent duties in the Mitchell office on 5/16/22. Firearms Instructor Doug Seim (Watertown) submitted his retirement notice, effective June 8. Interviews have occurred and Mike Morgan begin 5/31/2022. The senior agent position vacated by Doug's retirement will be posted at a later date. SWO Agent Cheyenne IronHeart submitted her resignation effective 6/3/2022. SWO Director White has indicated she will post this position as soon as possible. Juvenile Corrections Agent Thury assists with supervision of 6 cases in the Watertown office. Juvenile Corrections Agent Shawn Davis is assisting with the supervision of 7 cases in the Mitchell office.

#### West Region Staff Update:

Agents utilized in the West Region have an average caseload of 61.16. Agents utilized have an average workload of 90.48%. Current staffing: 1 open position (Rapid City); 1 agent in training (Rapid City). Senior Agent Brian Green resigned effective May 25, 2022. The agent position has been listed. The Senior Agent position will be filled at a later date. Parole agent specialists continue conducting the Moving On class. Parole Specialist Rachel Steinbauer continues to meet with offenders in the parole office weekly to go over basic life skills as well as interview skills and how to apply for jobs.

Break 9:15-9:22 A.M.

LEGAL ISSUES: Loranda Kenyon was available and provided the following updates for the board:

*Christopher Hatchett* -administrative appeal, judge granted the board's motion to dismiss. *Freeman Mesteth* - administrative appeal (parole revocation), administrative record and transcript have been done and Mr. Freeman's attorney has requested a delay in submitting his brief. *Kevin Highbanks*- lawsuit, AG's Office affirmatively requested that the Parole Board Members be dismissed.

POLICY REVIEW: Director McGovern discussed Policy 8.1.A.7, Early Discharges. Motion made to approve the revised policy made by Board Member Aasen and seconded by Board Member Hall, all others voted aye, motion carried.

BOARD TRAINING: Board Members received training from Director McGovern to facilitate a smooth transition from Zoom to MS Teams.

June 2022



RECUSALLS:

Jan Steele recused herself in reference to the non-compliance hearing regarding Bren, Matthew.

FULL BOARD:

The following individuals were discussed for a paper review in reference to an early discharge.

*Van Nort, Myron*, there was a motion made to grant 4 years partial discharge, made by Board Member Steele, seconded by Board Member Hall, all members voted aye, motion carried.

DECISIONS: Board Member Schroyer made a motion to ratify and affirm all decisions: Board Member Gass seconded the motion. All members voting aye; the motion carried.

ATTACHMENTS – DECISIONS: Please refer to the attached listing entitled Parole Board Actions for all parole violations, suspended sentence violations, non-compliance, discretionary parole, earned discharge, and rescission decisions made by the Board this month.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 10:47 A.M., Thursday, June 16th, 2022. The next full board meeting is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 8 a.m.

BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Myron Rau, Board Chair or Gordon Swanson, Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Val McGovern, Executive Director

Submitted by:  
Val McGovern  
Executive Director of  
Board of Pardons and Paroles